

BEDNESTI LAKE ECOLOGICAL RESERVE

PURPOSE STATEMENT

March 2003

Approved by:



John Metcalfe
Regional Manager
Environmental Stewardship Division

Date: March 3/03



Nancy Wilkin
Assistant Deputy Minister
Environmental Stewardship Division

Date: March 26/03

Bednesti Lake Ecological Reserve Purpose Statement

The Bednesti Lake Ecological Reserve is located 45 km west of Prince George, 2.5 km south of Highway 16. The ecological reserve is 139 ha in size, and preserves representative wetland communities and disjunct tamarack stands on the Interior Plateau.

The ecological reserve is situated on a nearly level portion of the Nechako Lowlands Ecoregion of the Interior Plateau. Two small bog-like lakes are surrounded by a broad band of treeless wetland vegetation, beyond which are stands of coniferous forest.

Most of the wetland vegetation is made up of floating mats of sedge. Boggy forests dominated by tamarack, black spruce, or a mixture of the two occur in low sites near the sedge wetlands. Typical upland forests contain a mixture of white and black spruce and lodgepole pine. Both tamarack and cordroot sedge occur here as isolated populations well south of their more continuous sub-arctic ranges.

These wetlands provide excellent habitat for a variety of nesting and migrating waterfowl, and other aquatic wildlife such as beaver and muskrat.

An access road passes through the western end of the ecological reserve. Logging has occurred on lands immediately south of the ecological reserve.

Primary Role

The primary role of Bednesti Lake Ecological Reserve is to protect representative wetland communities and disjunct tamarack stands on the Interior Plateau.

Known Management Issues	Response
ATV use	Monitor during hunting season.
Adjacent cutblocks	Road construction may affect watershed drainage. Monitor the situation.
Road access	Roads are not allowed in ecological reserves. Investigate the status of the road to determine if it needs to be excepted from the ecological reserve. The road provides increased access to the ecological reserve. Monitor possible impacts.

CONSERVATION

Representation

- ecosection
- biogeoclimatic subzone/variant

Contributes minimally to the representation of the under-represented Nechako Lowlands Ecosection (4.68%); the ecological reserve contributes only 0.19% of overall provincial protection of this ecosection

Contributes minimally to the representation of the under-represented SBS dw3 (4.24%); the ecological reserve contributes only 0.35% of overall provincial protection of this variant.

Special Feature

Rare/Endangered Values

unknown

Scientific/Research Opportunities

RECREATION

Representation:

- backcountry
- destination
- travel corridor
- local recreation

X Nature appreciation opportunities

Special Opportunities

Education/Interpretation Opportunities

X Wetland ecology

CULTURAL HERITAGE

Representation

Special Feature

OTHER MANAGEMENT CONSIDERATIONS

Other Designations

X Access road right-of-way

Relationship to Other PAs

X One of 148 ecological reserves established to protect natural ecosystems and phenomena for research and education purposes across the province.

Co-operative Management Arrangements

Partnerships

X Ecological Reserve Warden (Nancy Muirhead, appointed June 1989)

Vulnerability

X The Conservation Risk Assessment Process identified 2 risk factors (the shape and the size of the ecological reserve) for the ecological reserve and rated them as highly significant. Two stressors/threats were identified for the ecological reserve: roadways and livestock with both rated as medium significance.

Relationship to Other Strategies

Area: 139 hectares

Date of establishment: February 10, 1978